



New Hampshire Institute for Local Public Health Practice at the Manchester Health Department

PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE

Course Description:

This course will provide an introduction to the basic principles within environmental public health at the local level. The course will focus on the application of knowledge and skills required by environmental health practitioners in their daily job-related functions and responsibilities. Specific functions and environmental regulations will be explored in areas such as food protection, water quality, nuisance/vector surveillance and control, and indoor environments. The course will also describe the relationship between the environment and health, as well as the role of public health nurses with regard to environmental health and disease prevention. The course will conclude with a discussion of the future of environmental health, including successful tracking tools and the use of GIS.

Target Audience:

Public health professionals (public health nurses, environmental health specialists, health officers, etc.) who are interested in the practical application of principles within the field of environmental health at the local level.

Course Instructors:

Philip Alexakos, MPH, Senior Public Health Specialist, Manchester Health Department

Tim Soucy, MPH, Chief of Environmental Health, Manchester Health Department

** Including a variety of guest presenters.*

Reference Books (provided):

Morgan T., Monroe; *Environmental Health, Third Edition*

Participant Assessment:

All course participants will be given a pre-test to evaluate the level of subject matter knowledge of the group as a whole. Participants may choose to remain anonymous for the pre-test only. To successfully complete this course, all participants will be required to pass a comprehensive written examination on content covered within the course. The examination is administered as a take-home assignment. Course content will be covered through a variety of media. Listed below are the types of assignments and activities that all participants will responsible to complete.

- Pre-test based on lesson objectives
- Reading assignments
- Case-study analyses
- Group discussions
- Post-test based on lesson objectives
- Course evaluation based on competencies and course objectives

Course Overview:

LESSON I: What is Environmental Health?

- Foundations of Health
- Environmental Health
- Introduction to Environmental Health Methods
- Environmental Health System

LESSON II: Food Protection

- Food Safety and Globalization
- Need for Comprehensive Food Safety Programs
- Understanding Foodborne Illness
- Protecting Food and Controlling Foodborne Illness
- Regulatory Scheme for Food Safety

LESSON III: Water Quality and Sewage Treatment

- Hydrologic Cycle
- Surface Water Supplies
- Groundwater Supplies
- Water Quality and Distribution
- Individual Water-Carried Systems
- Municipal Wastewater Treatment
- Water-Oriented Recreation

LESSON IV: Indoor Environments & Outdoor Air Quality

- Lead
- Physiological Needs
- Protection Against Causative Agents of Disease
- Sick Building Syndrome
- Institutional Environments
- Air Quality

LESSON V: Nuisance & Vector Surveillance and Control

- Nuisance Control
- Regulation of Nuisances
- Vector Control

LESSON VI: Future of Environmental Health

- Environmental Health Tracking Program
- GIS and Environmental Health